

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application. In view of the fact that the application is currently under final rejection, a Request for Continued Examination is concurrently filed herewith.

In the foregoing amendments, each of the independent claims 1, 27, 28, and 29 have been amended to indicate that the horizontal frame members and the vertical frame members include planar portions which are parallel and juxtaposed to one another and are secured together by a common fastener.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 12-16 and 20-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,713,651, hereinafter "Essig", in view of GB Patent 1 410 762, hereinafter "Bloohn".

Each of the four independent claims recites a frame structure for a rack for electrical equipment, and which includes two horizontal frame members and one vertical frame member. Each of the members includes planar portions which are parallel and juxtaposed to one another and are secured together by a common fastener engaging the juxtaposed portions of the three frame members. The purpose of the amendment is to clarify that by juxtaposed, the portions are arranged side by side, not merely just next to each other. Although Essig discloses three frame members which include planar portions, Essig only has two planar portions juxtaposed to one another at a time, and thus requires two fasteners at each joint. Bloohn does not overcome this deficiency of Essig in that

Bloohn does not teach or suggest three planar portions which are parallel and juxtaposed to one another, either. In fact, Bloohn does not even teach or suggest two planar portions that are parallel and juxtaposed to one another.

The structure of the present invention provides enhanced strength by having three parallel, planar portions juxtaposed to one another. In addition, in view of the fact that all three members can be secured by one common fastener, ease of assembly is also accomplished. In addition, a first one of the frame members is a hollow section, and a second one of the frame members passes through an opening in a wall of the first frame member. This structure provide additional stability.

None of the prior art teaches or suggests such an arrangement. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the now-amended claims and find them patentable over the cited prior art.

Dependent claims 2-5, 7, 9, 12-16, and 20-26 are patentable over the prior art at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims. Accordingly, the dependent claims are also patentable over the applied prior art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

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In the event that there are any questions concerning this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: March 18, 2004

By: William C. Rowland
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620